



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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SEVENTEENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Lamar, Chairman Haskell, Vice Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Thank you to the Transportation Committee for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 4:

We would like to emphasize an important item of this bill in Section 6 that expands the electric vehicle rebate eligibility to electric bicycles. Helping Connecticut invest in e-bikes would expand electric equity, utilize the currently underspent Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Rebate (CHEAPR) funds, and reduce carbon emissions by increasing the utilization of e-bikes in Connecticut.

The EV financial incentives that currently exist through the CHEAPR program are regularly underspent and often not practical for lower-income households, those who are on month-to-month budgets, or those who cannot afford or want a car. We only need to look at the latest increase of gas prices to know that we need as many options at our disposal as possible to disinvest in gas-powered vehicles.

While price points for new electric cars begin at around \$40,000, e-bikes provide a more affordable electric transportation option ranging between \$1,200 and \$10,000. Expanding rebates to electric bikes will help Connecticut achieve our goal of lowering carbon emissions by supporting an equitable transition to electric vehicles. Although our proposed House Bill 5088 specified a tax credit for electric bike purchases by income level, we appreciate that the language in this bill will offer the rebate to all but have priority for environmental justice communities and lower-income individuals.

Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you to pass Senate Bill 4 this year.

Sincerely,

Eleni Kavros DeGraw
State Representative – 17th District

Kate Farrar
State Representative – 20th District